ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Transition metal complexes used as bleach catalysts of the formula (1)

$$M(L)_nX_m \qquad (1)$$

where

M is a metal atom from the group Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Mo, W,

L is a ligand of the formula

$$R_1R_2C{=}N\text{-}O(H)_z$$

R_1 is C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl or C_5-C_{24}-aryl,

R_2 is H, C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_2-C_{22}-alkenyl, C_5-C_{24}-aryl or $R_1\overset{|}{C}{=}N\text{-}O(H)_z$

where z = 0 or 1,

X is a neutral or anion ligand from the group consisting of pyridines, imidazolines, methylimidazoles, picolines, lutidines, chloride, bromide, nitrate, perchlorate, citrate, hexafluorophosphate or anions of organic acids having C_1-C_{22} carbon atoms, n is a number from 2 to 4 and m is a number from 0 to 4.